

government to discriminate between the rights of its citizens or to recognize the exactions of any combine whether manufacturing or distributing. We should all be equal before the law. In Canada we are not. I repeat that our laws are a series of divisional enactments, and in that there is an evil. It is bound to breed rebellion in the one class, and in the other class a disregard for the rights of others. I think if anything has been forcibly demonstrated by the Customs investigation that has been proceeding during the present session, it is the fact that there is a disregard for the rights of others which has increased with the passage of time during the last forty years. I say it breeds rebellion in the one class and in the other class a disregard for the rights of others.

What is the tariff? It is a frame-up between the politicians and those who have an interest in putting an import penalty on certain classes of goods. This must involve corruption and misrepresentation of facts to the electorate. It can have no other result.

Mr. FOSTER: Where is the corruption?

Mr. EVANS: I will deal with that in a minute. I said the tariff was a frame-up, the one class guaranteeing the election of the other which in turn trades off its influence and power to produce the legislation desired. If such was not the case, protection as we have it to-day would not last one year. It is inconceivable that men elected as representatives of the people would trade off the rights of their fellows without some consideration. That is where the corruption comes in.

Mr. CAHAN: That is where the Progressive party comes in, too.

Mr. EVANS: The hon. member for St. Lawrence-St. George says "that is where the Progressive party comes in".

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. EVANS: I challenge the hon. gentleman to prove that. In case I may seem to be presumptuous in my statement let me quote an authority. This is taken from a statement by Sir Richard Cartwright.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. EVANS: Some hon. gentlemen to my right do not like to hear the name of Sir Richard Cartwright; I do not wonder at it. But listen to his statement. He said in a letter addressed to the London Economist:

Prior to the general elections of 1832, 1837 and 1891, Sir John Macdonald and his colleagues called the protected manufacturers together, and demanded and ob-

tained from them such sums as they deemed necessary for debauching the electorate, pledging themselves in return not to alter the tariff to the detriment of the said contributors, which compact was faithfully carried out and impudently avowed.

Sir Charles Tupper, speaking in the House of Commons on March 22, 1892, called Cartwright's attention to this serious charge. "Every word of it is true," answered Cartwright, "and you know it." I say again that no man engages in evil transactions involving risk to his name and honour, without some personal benefit. The tariff was the first means of organizing in this country a band of overlords who ruled the Dominion, who still hold the reins of power, and who are the cause of creating a class-conscious war to-day between themselves and the other classes. The Progressive party is composed of farmers. Labour would have a share in the movement too, but for the fact that that part of the working population are directly dependent on these overlords for their living. A tariff to-day is a means in the hands of the manufacturers and other combines, of finance and of distributing concerns, of intimidating their employees. These employees are continually under the threat that if their ballots are not marked as the employers desire the works will at once close down,—in fact the threat has been made that if the budget is not favourable many works will close down. Intimidation is a regular appanage of the system. The workers are helpless in their plight to-day, and the lords of industry and finance gloat over the condition they have created. If anyone disputes this let me read a paragraph from the Bankers' Magazine of August 26, 1920. That journal, commenting on the situation, expresses it thus:

"Capital must protect itself in every possible manner through combination and legislation. Debt must be collected, bonds and mortgages must be foreclosed as rapidly as possible. When, through a process of law, the common people have lost their homes they will be more tractable, and more easily governed through the influence of the strong arm of the government, applied by a central power of wealth under the control of leading financiers. A people without homes will not quarrel with their leaders."

Mr. CAHAN: Is that an extract from a publication of the Bankers' Association?

Mr. EVANS: An extract from the Bankers' Magazine.

Mr. CAHAN: Of Canada?

Mr. EVANS: Of the United States, August 26, 1920.

Mr. CAHAN: Whose writing is it?

Mr. EVANS: Let me read another paragraph.